



Romans 1-8

The Greatest News

Sample Lesson #1
and
Leader's Guide Answers

Read – Romans 1:1–17, other references as given.

What is the greatest news you've ever received? Was it the birth of a child, the love of your life saying he or she will marry you, reconciliation of a dear friendship? For the Christian it has to be the day the gospel was revealed to him or her.

In this first lesson Paul introduces himself and the gospel (good news) of/from God (Romans 1:1–6). He expresses his love for the Roman Christians and his desire to see them (Romans 1:8–13) and then acknowledges his spiritual indebtedness to the gospel (Romans 1:14–15). Lastly Paul explains why he is unashamed of proclaiming this good news to others (Romans 1:16–17).

Now ask God to reveal Himself through His Word and transform you into the image of Jesus Christ.

1. Paul wrote his letter to the Romans under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Romans 1:1; 2 Timothy 3:16). What threefold description did Paul use to describe himself to them (Romans 1:1)?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
2. a. The Greek word for **bondservant** (NIV: “servant”) is *doulos*, which is often translated “slave.” Why did Paul refer to himself as a slave when he was a free Roman citizen (1 Corinthians 6:19–20)?
 - b. *Do you think* there is any significance to the order of the three terms in Romans 1:1? If so, what is it?
3. Paul was scourged five times, stoned once, shipwrecked, and spent a night and day adrift in the sea (2 Corinthians 11:24–28). Besides these things he was in constant danger of robbers and those who wanted to kill him for the message he preached.
 - a. How did he regard the physical afflictions he endured as a faithful servant or slave of Jesus Christ?
 1. 2 Corinthians 4:17: _____
 2. Galatians 6:17: _____
 - b. If you are a Christian, do you regard the trials and struggles you face as a Christian the same way? Why?
4. Romans 1:1–7 forms a single sentence in the original Greek language. If you read Romans 1:7 immediately after Romans 1:1, you'll see the normal pattern of ancient letter writing: (1) introduction of the writer, (2) identification of the recipients (3) a standard greeting, and (4) the content of the letter. Romans 1:2–6 is parenthetical, meaning it explains the phrase “the gospel or good news of/from God” (Romans 1:1). Name at least four things the Bible says about this great news God has given to man (Romans 1:2–6).
 1. _____ (v. _____)
 2. _____ (v. _____)
 3. _____ (v. _____)
 4. _____ (v. _____)
5. The Bible says Jesus Christ, our Lord, was **declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead** (Romans 1:4) This phrase implies that Jesus Christ became the Son of God at the resurrection. Since the Bible clearly refutes this misinterpretation (Matthew 14:33; Luke 1:35; 4:41), what *do you think* is the meaning of the phrase **declared to be the Son of God** (Romans 1:4)?

6. a. Paul used a threefold description to identify himself (Romans 1:1). What threefold description does he use to greet the believers in Rome (Romans 1:6–7)?

1. _____ (v. _____)

2. _____ (v. _____)

3. _____ (v. _____)

b. *Do you think* this same description can be applied to *all* believers today, including you, if you are a Christian (Ephesians 1:4–5; 1 Corinthians 1:1–2; 2 Thessalonians 2:14)?

Yes No Not Sure Why?

7. It's easy to pass over short phrases such as **called of Jesus Christ, beloved of God, called to be saints** without really thinking much about their profound theological significance. If you do this, you will likely miss some important truths that God is trying to teach you about your relationship with Him. Match the specific phrase with the corresponding spiritual truth by drawing a line between them.

a. Called of Jesus Christ The believer's settled legal standing (perfection) before God

b. Beloved of God God's sovereign and unconditional invitation of salvation

c. Called to be saints God's eternal perspective toward all believers

8. a. Even though the Roman believers resided in a pagan city, they lived courageously for God. How did God use their willingness to trust Him and live by faith (Romans 1:8)?

b. The Roman Christians' faith was a spiritual encouragement to Paul and other believers. Circle the words that describe your faith in God

Strong Weak Fragile Growing Inconsistent Vibrant Fickle

Doubting Solid Fearful Personal Life-changing Zealous Hypocritical

c. What *do you think* you could do to have a stronger faith in God?

9. Paul lists several reasons why he wanted to visit the Roman Christians. Please list four (Romans 1:11–13, 15:24).

1. _____ (_____)

2. _____ (_____)

3. _____ (_____)

4. _____ (_____)

10. a. Paul's eagerness and boldness to testify of the saving power of God was preceded by his understanding and willingness to accept a very important spiritual truth. What two things did Paul know about the gospel that made him unashamed to proclaim it boldly to others (Romans 1:16)?

1. _____

2. _____

b. Are you willing to tell others about God's good news so that they can be saved or born again?

YES NO Why?

1: The Greatest News

1. 1. Bondservant. 2. Apostle. 3. One who was set apart for the gospel of God.
2. a. When an individual is born again (saved), he is actually purchased by Jesus Christ and is no longer his own (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). He belongs to Jesus Christ.
b. The word *bondservant* expresses his relationship to Jesus Christ. The word *apostle* expresses the authority vested in him to function within God's economy, and being *set apart* speaks of the consecration of his person to fulfill Christ's will. Perhaps the order of these is also significant. Submission to the person of Christ must come before Christ's bestowal of authority or power to influence others. The authority or power Christ gives believers to do His work will only be used effectively if we allow ourselves to be set apart or sanctified for His glory.
3. a. 2 Corinthians 4:17—light affliction, momentary affliction, a good investment because the temporary affliction produces an eternal reward.
b. Galatians 6:17—as an indication and a reminder of Christ's ownership of his life. Paul saw his scars as Christ's brand on his life.
4. 1. The gospel was promised long ago through the prophets (Romans 1:2; the gospel is not new and novel).
2. The gospel is intricately related to a person—Jesus Christ; it is not just abstract facts. If you separate the person of Jesus Christ from this great news from God, there is no gospel (Romans 1:3).
3. The gospel is inseparable from the doctrine of the resurrection (Romans 1:4).
4. The gospel produces genuine and lasting life change (Romans 1:5) because the gospel demands a personal response from man. For Paul, it was a divinely given commission (apostleship), and for all other believers it is responding to God's call to live a holy life and to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18–20).
5. Jesus proved His claim or validated His declaration to be the Son of God by His resurrection. Jesus had prophesied that He would rise from the dead (John 2:18–22; Matthew 16:21), and the resurrection was the official validation of His claim and the fulfillment of His prophecy.
6. a. The called of Jesus Christ, beloved of God, and called to be saints.
b. Yes. Believers are called by God (2 Thessalonians 2:14), loved (beloved) by God (Ephesians 1:4–5) and united with Christ at the time of salvation. They are set apart to God and can rightfully be called saints, because of their relationship to Christ (1 Corinthians 1:1–2).
7. a. Called of God ----- God's sovereign and unconditional invitation to salvation
b. Beloved by God ----- God's eternal perspective toward all believers
c. Called to be saints ----- The believer's settled, legal standing (perfection) before God
8. a. Their faith had become known throughout the Roman Empire , the whole world at that time.
b. Answers will vary.
c. Answers will vary.
9. 1. He wanted either to use his own spiritual gifting to edify the Roman Christians or to give them some spiritual blessing (Romans 1:11).
2. He wanted to be a spiritual encouragement to them and for them to encourage him (Romans 1:12).
3. He wanted God to use him to help the Roman Christians grow spiritually (have some spiritual fruit; Romans 1:13).
4. He wanted the Roman Christians to help him financially so he could go to Spain and minister there (Romans 15:24).
10. a. 1. Paul knew that the gospel message was able to save everyone who believed (Romans 1:16).
2. Paul knew there were no ethnic limitations to the gospel so he could confidently share it with everyone he met, knowing that it was not a message that only certain ethnicities could receive. As an orthodox Jew and Pharisee, this truth must have been a staggering revelation to Paul (Romans 1:16).
b. Answers will vary.